

Claim Amendments

1. (currently amended) A system, comprising:

a first phone that comprises a connector component that is operationally connectable through a packet network to any selected one or more of a plurality of switch components;

a second phone receiving communication origination services from the one switch component and coupled to the one switch component by a path that is independent of the path by which the first phone is coupled to the one switch;

a registration server, coupled with the packet network, that stores data permitting a user to select a telephone number supported by an associated switch component via which communication services is enabled for the first phone;

a voice over Internet protocol (VoIP) gateway coupled to the packet network and the one switch component where the VoIP gateway provides a communication interface to facilitate communications between the packet network and the one switch component;

wherein the any selected one or more of the plurality of switch components serves to provide one or more of originating and terminating telecommunication service to the first phone;

wherein the phone comprises first and second phones where the first and second phones are not connected to each other as extension phones, the one switch components adapted to provide the first phone with a shared call appearance with the second phone through the packet network based on an IP address of the first phone received from the registration server, wherein the second phone comprises the shared call appearance with the first phone over the switch component and through a network;

wherein the shared call appearances of the first and second phones causesmeans the second phone serves as an electronic implementation of an extension of the first phone.

2-4. Canceled.

5. (currently amended) A system, comprising:

a first phone that comprises a connector component that is operationally connectable through a packet network to any selected one or more of a plurality of switch components; wherein the any selected one or more of the plurality of switch components serve to provide one or more of originating and terminating telecommunication service to the first phone; wherein the phone comprises a first phone having a shared call appearance with a second phone over the a switch component of the plurality of switch components and through the packet network, wherein the second phone comprises the shared call appearance with the first phone over the switch component and through a network;

wherein the shared call appearances of the first and second phones means the second phone serves as an electronic implementation of an extension phone of the first phone; wherein the first phone comprises shares a second shared call appearance with a third phone over a second switch component and through the packet network, wherein the third phone comprises the second shared call appearance with the first phone over the second switch component and through a network.

6 - 10. Canceled.

11. (currently amended) A method, comprising the steps of:

storing at one switch component a telephone number selected for association with a first phone that comprises a connector component that is operationally connectable through a packet network to any selected one or more of a plurality of switch components that supports originating and terminating communication services for the first phone, the one switch component also storing an IP address of the first phone;

wherein the any selected one or more of the plurality of switch components serve to provide one or more of originating and terminating telecommunication service to the phone;

wherein the step of selecting the phone that comprises the connector component that is operationally connectable through the packet network to the any selected one or more of the plurality of switch components comprises the steps of:

selecting the phone to comprise a first phone; and

providing communications services by the one switch component to the first and second phone so that the first phone has a shared call appearance with a second phone where communications to the first phone is based on the IP address of the first phone over a switch component of the plurality of switch components and through the packet network, wherein the second phone comprises the shared call appearance with the first phone over the switch component and through a network, the second phone receiving communication origination services from the one switch component and coupled to the one switch component by a path that is independent of another path by which the first phone is coupled to the one switch, the first and second phones not being connected to each other as extension phones;

wherein the shared call appearances of the first and second phones causes means the second phone to serve as an electronic implementation of an extension of the first phone.

12-14. Canceled.

15. (currently amended) A method, comprising the steps of:

selecting a telephone number to be associated with a first phone where the first phone comprises a connector component that is operationally connectable through a packet network to any selected one or more of a plurality of switch components;

wherein the any selected one or more of the plurality of switch components serves to provide originating and terminating telecommunication service to the first phone;

the telephone number also being associated with a second phone supported by the any selected one or more of the plurality of switch components so that the first phone has a shared call appearance with the second phone over the any one of the plurality of switch components and through the packet network, wherein the second phone comprises the shared call appearance with the first phone over the switch component and through a network, the first and second phones not being connected to each other as extension phones;

wherein the shared call appearances of the first and second phones causes the second phone to serve as an electronic implementation of an extension phone of the first phone;

The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of:

selecting the first phone to comprise a second shared call appearance with a third phone over a second switch component and through the packet network, wherein the third phone comprises the second shared call appearance with the first phone over the second switch component and through a network.

16. (currently amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising wherein the step of selecting the phone that comprises the connector component that is operationally connectable through the packet network to the any selected one or more of the plurality of switch components comprises the step of:

selecting the first phone to comprise a connector component that is operationally connectable through the packet network to the any selected one or more of the plurality of switch components through a respective one or more of a plurality of providing a telephony to Internet protocol interface via a voice over Internet protocol gateways for communications between the first phone and the any selected one of the plurality of switch components.

17. (currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the step of selecting the phone that comprises the connector component that is operationally connectable through the packet network to the any selected one or more of the plurality of switch components comprises the step of:

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selecting the telephone number of the second phone to be registrable with the first phone
via a registration server~~any selected one of a plurality of voice over Internet protocol gateways.~~

18 – 30 Canceled.